

In Focus

Summer 2017



**News from the BSBP Braille and
Talking Book Library (BTBL)**

702 W Kalamazoo St., P.O. Box 30007, Lansing, MI 48909

Braille Enhanced StoryWalk®

StoryWalk® is an innovative and delightful activity that places a children's story (literally a book taken apart, laminated, and attached to wooden stakes) along a popular walking route in a community. This is a great way for children and adults to enjoy reading and the outdoors at the same time.

This program, originally developed in Vermont, has gained momentum throughout public libraries around the nation. Now, for the first time, this typical StoryWalk® model is being enhanced with braille. The Braille and Talking Book Library (BTBL) and the Michigan Department of Education-Low Incidence Outreach (MDE-LIO), in collaboration with the Library of Michigan, offered public libraries in Michigan the opportunity to host Braille Enhanced StoryWalk® at their libraries. We are pleased to report that, with this first round of applications, 34 public libraries throughout Michigan are participating in this exciting opportunity!

Each public library that takes part can do a StoryWalk® at their location or collaborate with a local park. Not only will they be able to provide an exciting new program for their patrons, but by including the braille, the library will be embracing accessibility and equal access to information. For more details, including participating library locations, turn to page 5.

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Technology Corner

Scott Norris, Adaptive Technology Librarian
1-800-992-9012 or norriss5@michigan.gov

All our Clubs meet in the BTBL public service area on the ground floor of the Michigan Library and Historical Center, across from the elevators. Computer Club meets from 10:30 to 12:30 followed by Book Club at 1:30. Knitting Club meets from 12 to 2. Hands-On Club meets from 10:30 to 12:30. If you cannot attend in person, you may join any of our clubs by dialing 888-278-0296 and entering the access code 5836578. Note: Computer and Book Club break for the summer months of July and August.

Club Schedules (in Lansing):

July 7: Knitting Club

August 4: Knitting Club

September 1: Knitting Club

September 9: Nonvisual Desktop Access (NVDA) screen reader program presented by Joe Todd

September 9: Book Club topic to be announced

September 30: Hands-On: Fall Gardening Tips presented by David Penfold

Hands-On Club

Interested in new experiences? Stuck in a rut? Like to step out of your comfort zone? We feel that way too. That is why we started BTBL's Hands-On Club. This group will meet on the last Saturday of each month in the BTBL lobby from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. The club will offer a broad variety of new experiences including speakers, demonstrations and hands-on events. Please come join us for the kick-off event on September 9th featuring David Penfold, former head gardener at the Grand Hotel on Mackinaw Island. Mr. Penfold will discuss how to put your garden away for the winter, as well as share some experiences from his time on the Island. Also mark your calendar for the October event featuring woodcarver Fred Erbis. Don't miss out on these great opportunities!

Libraries Without Walls (LWW) Success!

This one-day adaptive technology conference was sponsored by the Bureau of Services for Blind Persons (BSBP) Braille and Talking Book Library (BTBL) on Tuesday, June 13th. It offered patrons, professionals, and community members the opportunity to attend a variety of sessions throughout the day featuring adaptive technology topics.

We understand that not all our patrons interested in this event were able to attend in person. In response, we have posted an audio recording of the keynote speaker, Larry Lewis of Flying Blind, which can be accessed on our website's News/Events page (www.michigan.gov/btbl). We also posted the presentation documents if provided to us by the presenters.

Thank you to all the presenters, vendors, and staff that made this event a huge success. We hope to see everyone at the next event in June of 2019!



Photo caption above: Scott Norris shakes hands with Keynote speaker Larry Lewis.



Photo caption left: Sue Chinault (BTBL manager), Caitlin Snyder (LWW presenter), William Robinson (BSBP director), Scott Norris (BTBL Adaptive Technology Librarian and LWW chair).

Local Recordings

Betsie Branch, Studio Coordinator Librarian
1-800-992-9012 or branchb1@michigan.gov

Michigan Notable Books Recently Added to the Collection:

DB86912 - *Preston Tucker and His Battle to Build the Car of Tomorrow*, by Steve Lehto, narrated by Richard Davidson

Profile of Preston Tucker, automobile designer and entrepreneur. Analyzes the importance of the Tucker '48 in automobile history. 2016. (10h 19m)

DBC03434 - *Making Waves: Michigan's Boat-Building Industry*, by Scott M. Peters, narrated by Lili Krezel.

History of 19th Century, Michigan boat building industry, which produced some of the fastest and most innovative and affordable boats in America. 2015. (11h 41m)

DBC05953 - *The Arsenal of Democracy: FDR, Detroit, and an Epic Quest to Arm an America at War* by A.J. Baime, narrated by Michael P. Donovan

Narrative of how Ford Motor Company went from making automobiles to producing the airplanes that would mean the difference between winning and losing World War II. 2014. (13h 55m)

DBC05930 - *Grit, Noise & Revolution: the Birth of Detroit Rock 'n' Roll* by David A. Carson, narrated by Tracey Dolinar

Survey of 1960s and 70s Detroit music and some of the garage-inspired, blue-collar Motor City rock 'n' roll bands that exemplified the Detroit rock sound. Some strong language. 2005. (13h 57m)

Would you like more talking books about Michigan or by Michigan authors? Call the library at 1-800-992-9012 and ask a Reader Advisor to add Michigan Fiction and/or Michigan Non-Fiction to your favorite subjects. Also, reserve a copy of the latest edition of the *Michigan BTBL Locally Recorded Digital Talking Books Catalog* expected to be mailed out in July 2017.

Youth Services

Stephanie Wambaugh, Youth and Outreach Librarian
1-800-992-9012 or wambaugh@michigan.gov

Braille Enhanced StoryWalk® (continued)

This program was offered to libraries in Michigan on a first-come, first-served basis with limited kits available. Kits, which include the children's book and braille overlays, are expected to be delivered to participating libraries in July, with local events taking place in the following months.

- Alto Branch- Kent District Library
- Berrien Springs Community Library
- Bloomfield Township Public Library
- Brandon Township Public Library
- Cadillac Wexford Public Library- Main Branch
- Capital Area District Libraries- Downtown Lansing Branch
- Chesterfield Township Library
- Clarkston Independence District Library
- DeWitt District Library
- Dickinson County Library- Main Branch
- Elk Rapids School Library
- Fraser Public Library
- Grosse Pointe Public Library- Central
- Hudson Carnegie District Library
- Huntington Woods Library
- Jackson District Library- Brooklyn Branch
- Jackson District Library- Napoleon Branch
- Kent District Library- East Grand Rapids Branch
- Lapeer District Library- DeAngeli Branch
- Livonia Civic Center Library
- Negaunee Public Library
- Niles District Library
- Novi Public Library
- Orion Township Public Library
- Oscoda County Library
- Otsego County Library
- Rochester Hills Public Library
- Salem-South Lyon District Library
- Saline District Library
- Sterling Heights Public Library
- Superior District Library- Bayliss
- Timothy C Hauenstein Reynolds Township Library
- Traverse Area District Library- Woodmere
- Walled Lake City Library

The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. Storywalk® is a registered service mark owned by Ms. Ferguson. This resource is supported in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services administered by the Library of Michigan.

Build a Better World Youth Summer Reading Program There's still time to join! Call or email now to reserve your spot. This program is presented by the Braille and Talking Book Library, in collaboration with Michigan Department of Education—Low Incidence Outreach (MDE-LIO).

News

WANTED: Any unused, extra, or broken equipment

Do you know of someone that has an NLS machine in need of repair? BTBL Machine Services is the place to send it.

If you no longer use the equipment, please send it back to us so that we can reissue it to others. If it is broken and you need it replaced, or if you would like a box and return labels to send back unused equipment, call our toll-free number at 1-800-992-9012.

PLEASE REMEMBER that the equipment loaned to you is the property of the United States Government and should not be thrown away, loaned to someone else, given away to others, or sold in garage sales, resale shops, or on the internet. All equipment must be returned to us when you are finished using it.

Wood Carving Display at BTBL

As a part of the new BTBL Hands-On Club, wood carver Fred Erbis has loaned some of his work for a display in our lobby. Please feel free to stop by during business hours to explore some of these creations in more detail. And if you are interested in wood carving, mark your calendars for the October Hands-On club where Fred will talk about his process and provide a live demonstration.

Photo caption right: Wood carving of a face of a Native American male wearing a head dress. Approximately 1 foot by 5 inches wide.



Photo caption: Digital Talking Book Machine (left), and Cassette Machine (right)



Around the State

The following programs may be offered only to patrons within the counties served for each library location. To find out if a program is available to you, refer to the library listings on page 10 or call the location in question to verify.

Kent District Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

- **Summer reading** starts June 5 this year and runs through Aug. 12 for all ages. Sign up online at <http://kdl.readsquared.com> starting June 1 or call our office at 616-647-3988 to have a printed log mailed to you. Track your summer reading activity and earn prizes!

Prizes will be sent to completers starting Wednesday, July 5. (If you finish earlier than that, please wait until July 5 to claim your prize.) In addition, everyone who completes summer reading will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win one of 10 iPad minis!

For more information, call us or visit: <http://www.kdl.org/summer-reading>. Happy reading!

Braille and Talking Books @ Taylor Community Library

- **Brown Bag Talking Book Discussion.** Wednesday, July 12: Noon to 1:30 P.M. The group discusses two books each month. Listen to both, one, or none. Everyone is welcome. Please call library to order your copies of the books:

DB 76920 - *Revolutionary Summer*

DB 68618 - *The Lost City of Z: A Tale of Deadly Obsession in the Amazon*

- **Technology Talk.** Wednesday, July 19: Noon to 1:30 P.M. Topic: Talking Book Reader Comparison. Bring your Talking Book player, VictorStream, PlexTalk, BookSense, phone, tablet, or laptop for discussion of pros and cons.
- **Support Group for Visually Impaired People (VIPs).** Wednesday, July 26: Noon to 1:30 P.M. Topic for the Month: Sensory Gardens. Share tips and tricks for gardening with a vision impairment. Find out what plants are best suited for your garden.
- **Telephone Line for Programs.** Can't attend a program in person? Don't worry. You can participate through our conference line. Contact Sarah Roe for details at 734-287-4840 or 844-307-1621.

Traverse Area District Library & Talking Book Library

- **Assistance with adaptive devices.** If you need help with one of your adaptive technology devices, call Lue at 231-714-6255 to set up an appointment. You'll be glad you did!

Macomb Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped @ CMPL

- **Vision Network Group is Back for Summer!** Meetings held from 10 am to noon July 11 and 25, and August 8 and 22, at the Clinton-Macomb Public Library's Main Branch at 40900 Romeo Plank Road in Clinton Township. We are looking forward to these informal get-togethers of our patrons who are blind or have low vision to discuss issues of interest and share experiences. Registration is not required and you do not have to attend every meeting.
- **Computer Tutoring at Library.** Do not let vision issues stand in your way of using a computer or any digital devices such as iPhones or iPads. Our computer tutor, Sharon, can provide you with help in learning how technology can assist you to connect to the internet or with friends and family. Tutoring sessions are held at the library, or in some cases, by phone. These free sessions are one-on-one for an hour. To set up an appointment, please call the library at (586) 286-1580 or toll free at (855) 203-5274.
- **Assistive Technology Demonstrations.** If you are wondering what types of devices are available to make daily life just a little easier, please consider setting up an appointment for a hands-on demonstration at the library. Items demonstrated include check-writing guides, video magnifiers, lamps, as well as other items available to assist a person with vision issues. The Michigan Disability Rights Coalition sponsors this free, one-on-one demonstration program. Please call the library to set up an appointment at (586) 286-1580 or toll free at (855) 203-5274.
- **In Memoriam.** Linda S. Champion was our outstanding director for the Macomb Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped from 1989 until 2000. She passed away on April 2, 2017 after a heroic fight with cancer. During her tenure as Director of the Macomb Library for the Blind, Linda instituted a wide array of unique services, always keeping the patrons' best interests in mind. She also won many NACO awards (National Association of Counties) for ideas she implemented at the Macomb Library for the Blind. Linda had boundless enthusiasm for her work and for life, which was infectious to all who knew her. We will miss her!

Genesee District Library Talking Book Center

- **Ramping Up Outreach.** This summer we are planning the first in a series of outreach projects with local community organizations, such as visits to local assisted living facilities. Please contact us directly for more information about these exciting events in your area.

Great Lakes Talking Books

- **Book Club.** Brookridge Assisted Living in Marquette has arranged a book club that will meet monthly beginning in June 2017. If you are interested in joining this group, or would like to start a book club in your area, please call Lynn at 906-228-7697.
- **Upcoming Outreach.** Lynn will be visiting Crawford County Library in August to demonstrate the BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download) service and meet with GLTB patrons and the library staff. Invitations will be sent to patrons in this area. She also hopes to visit the Wakefield Public Library this fall to meet patrons in western Upper Michigan, share information, and answer questions regarding the Talking Book program. Please contact Lynn for specific dates and information about these events.

Oakland Talking Book Service @ RHPL

- **Summer Reading.** If you live in Oakland County and are actively involved in the OTBS@RHPL service, please consider joining the summer reading program. It is very simple to do and you can enter as many times as you like. Just call Michelle at 248-650-5681 and give her your name, phone number and something about a digital book that you have read. We will complete the entry form and enter you in a grand prize drawing held on August 7.
- **OTBS Book Groups.** If you are looking for an opportunity to discuss great books and network with other OTBS customers, please consider joining one of the book groups. We have monthly meetings over the phone and in person. Please visit otbs.rhpl.org for the current schedule of discussions or call Michelle at 248-650-5681.
- **Sensory Garden.** We are hoping that you will pay us a visit this summer so that we can show you our lovely sensory garden all in bloom. Along with tactile sculptures and plants, we have an abundance of pleasing scents and the sound of running water to delight the senses.
- **Adaptive Technology Lab.** Spend some time in Outreach Services in our adaptive technology lab. You can work on our adaptive computer using JAWS or learn about our latest addition, Optelec ClearView Speech, an intuitive video magnifier that allows you to listen, view and magnify text. In addition, you are welcome to sample and checkout any of our low vision aids.

St. Clair County Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

- **Outreach.** We presented at three separate senior fairs in the month of June, and are always eager to expand our outreach to new areas. If there is an event near you that you would like the library to consider attending, please feel free to contact us!

Michigan Talking Book Libraries

Bureau of Services for Blind Persons, Braille and Talking Book Library

1-800-992-9012 Counties served: Alcona, Allegan, Arenac, Barry, Bay, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Clare, Clinton, Eaton, Emmet, Gladwin, Gratiot, Hillsdale, Ingham, Iosco, Isabella, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Lake, Lapeer, Lenawee, Livingston, Mason, Mecosta, Midland, Monroe, Montmorency, Newaygo, Oceana, Ogemaw, Osceola, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon, Saginaw, Shiawassee, Saint Joseph, Van Buren

Washtenaw Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled @ AADL

1-734-327-4224 Counties served: Washtenaw

Great Lakes Talking Books

1-800-562-8985 Counties served: Alger, Alpena, Baraga, Chippewa, Crawford, Delta, Dickinson, Gogebic, Houghton, Iron, Keweenaw, Luce, Mackinac, Marquette, Menominee, Ontonagon, Schoolcraft

Oakland Talking Book Service @ RHPL

1-800-774-4542 Counties served: Oakland

Genesee District Talking Book Center

1-866-732-1120 Counties served: Genesee

Kent District Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

1-616-647-3988 Counties served: Ionia, Kent, Montcalm

Traverse Area District Library & Talking Book Library

1-877-931-8558 Counties served: Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford

St. Clair County Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

1-800-272-8570 Counties served: Huron, Saint Clair, Sanilac, Tuscola

Muskegon Area District Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

1-231-737-6310, 1-877-569-4801 (Ottawa) Counties served: Muskegon, Ottawa

Macomb Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped @ CMPL

1-586-286-1580 Counties served: Macomb

Braille and Talking Books @ Taylor Community Library

1-734-287-4840 Serving Wayne County

Detroit Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

1-313-481-1702 Serving cities of Detroit and Highland Park

Library of Michigan Foundation

By making a gift to the Library of Michigan Foundation, donors can help the BSBP Braille and Talking Book Library (BTBL) better serve thousands of Michigan residents statewide who are visually impaired or have other disabilities. Donors may also opt to provide for the Library of Michigan Foundation in their wills. By doing so, donors are able to make a larger gift than what might be possible during their lifetime, become eligible to receive tax benefits, and enjoy recognition and thanks now for their planned charitable contributions later. To make a gift of support, please send a check to the Library of Michigan Foundation, P.O. Box 11027, Lansing, MI 48901, or contact Darlene DePeel at **(517) 373-1297**.

The Library of Michigan Foundation is a non-profit organization which offers financial support to the BSBP Braille and Talking Book Library (BTBL) program.

If you would like to receive future mailings and information from the Library of Michigan Foundation, please sign below and return to:

Library of Michigan Foundation
P.O. Box 11027
Lansing, MI 48901



LIBRARY OF
MICHIGAN
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Check for further information:

- ☐ Gifts and Bequests
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- ☐ I have included you in my will
- ☐ Here is a gift of \$_____ to help enhance the BSBP Braille and Talking Book program.

Signature: _____

BSBP Braille and
Talking Book Library
702 W Kalamazoo St.
P.O. Box 30007
Lansing, MI 48909

***FREE
MATTER
FOR THE
BLIND***

How to Reach the BSBP Braille and Talking Book Library (BTBL)

By Phone: 517-373-5614
1-800-992-9012 (toll free)

By Fax: 517-373-5865
1-800-726-7323 (toll free)

By E-Mail: btbl@michigan.gov

On the Web: www.michigan.gov/btbl

Online Catalog:
www.michigan.gov/ordertalkingbooks

BARD:
<https://nlsbard.loc.gov>
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